

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of using an electronic intermediate carrier configured to perform cashless processing of a transaction for paying for a service between an owner of a personal electronic payment device and a payee, comprising the steps:

at a first time (t1), receiving a data record assigned to the service to be paid on an electronic intermediate carrier from an owner's personal electronic payment device, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is configured in a way such that the electronic intermediate carrier is physically separate and independent from the owner's personal electronic payment device ~~directly or indirectly by a personal electronic device of the owner;~~

at a second time (t2) which is later than the first time (t1), checking the data record ~~or data derived therefrom in~~ on the electronic intermediate carrier ~~[[by]]~~ using a receiving device of the payee ~~[[as]]~~;

~~[[to]]~~ determining that whether the service was rendered correctly; and

deleting or invalidating the data record completely ~~or with regard to the data derived therefrom in~~ on the electronic intermediate carrier upon correct rendition of the service ~~if the service was rendered correctly~~, so as to prevent the data record from being used several times for payment transactions,

~~wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is formed as a transferable unit physically separate from the owner's personal electronic payment device or personal electronic device.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including the step: transmitting the data record or data derived therefrom from the electronic intermediate carrier to the payee.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including the step of securing the data record cryptographically.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data record depends on at least one of individual data of the electronic intermediate carrier and a consecutive character string.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including encrypting the data record with a public key of the payee.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data record depends on personal data of the owner of the personal electronic payment device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data record represents at least one amount of money or at least one unit of value.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is not in the possession of the owner of the personal electronic payment device at the second time (t2).

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data transmission is effected contactlessly at at least one of the first time (t1) and the second time (t2).

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including the step of using the cashless payment transaction for paying postage for mail.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the

intermediate carrier is fastened detachably to mail.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein information on at least one of the time and place of the delivery of the mail is stored in the electronic intermediate carrier.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including visualizing information in connection with the data record on the intermediate carrier.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including fastening the intermediate carrier detachably to an object.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including transmitting from the intermediate carrier to the personal electronic payment device data on the functionality required for transmitting a data record from the personal electronic payment device or a personal device to the intermediate carrier.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for cashless processing of a transaction for paying for a service, comprising:

a personal electronic payment device of an owner, wherein the personal electronic payment device is configured to send a data record assigned to the service to be paid to an impersonal electronic intermediate carrier[[,]]; and

[[an]] the impersonal electronic intermediate carrier arranged to be configured to receive the data record from the personal electronic payment device, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is physically separate and independent from the owner's personal electronic payment device[[,]]; and

a receiving device of a payee configured to check the data record on the electronic intermediate carrier, wherein the receiving device is configured in a way such that when

~~the receiving device determines that the service was rendered correctly, the receiving device deletes or invalidates the data record completely on the impersonal electronic intermediate carrier wherein the personal electronic payment device is arranged to transmit a data record assigned to the service directly to the electronic intermediate carrier, or a personal device of the owner is provided for transmitting the data record from the personal electronic payment device to the electronic intermediate carrier, and the receiving device is arranged to check the data record as to whether it renders the service correctly and to invalidate or delete the data record completely or with regard to the data derived therefrom, if the service was rendered correctly, so as to prevent the data carrier from being used several times for payment transactions.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is formed as a transponder.

19. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier is set up for repeated transmission of data records.

20. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the functionality required for transmitting a data record from the personal means of payment or a personal device to the intermediate carrier is stored as an application on the electronic intermediate carrier.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the electronic intermediate carrier has a display device for visualizing information in connection with a data record.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the personal device is an intelligent device having a reading device for near field communication with a transponder.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the personal electronic payment device is a mobile telephone.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the personal electronic payment device is formed as a chip card, or as a security module of a mobile telephone.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the receiving device has a checking device as well as at least one additional component which provides reference information for checking a data record.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, including the step of, prior to the first time (t1), loading the data record with data, programs, ~~and/or~~ keys, or a combination thereof from a previous owner initiated log in with the payee.

27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein the data record is loaded with data, programs, ~~and/or~~ keys, or a combination thereof from a previous owner initiated log in with the payee.